



# **Implementation Status of the 2012 P-20 Council Recommendations:**

MARCH 2013

Office of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon and the  
P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee

## What is the Illinois P-20 Council?

The Illinois P-20 Council was established by the legislature in 2009 to develop a seamless and sustainable statewide system of quality education and support from birth to adulthood. Its goal is to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. Today, about 41% of the state's nearly 7 million working-age adults (25–64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree.

The Council is composed of members appointed by the Governor representing business leaders, local government, university administrators, school boards, unions, nonprofits, teachers, faculty, independent colleges, and parents, as well as members of the legislature. The P-20 Council makes annual recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. The Council issued its first round of recommendations in January of 2011, and its most updated recommendations in 2012.

## What is the P-20's Joint Education Leadership Committee?

The work of the P-20 Council is done largely in subcommittees, where state agencies, professional organizations, interest groups, and community partners come together to move Illinois education forward. The P-20 Council's Joint Education Leadership Committee (JELC), headed by Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, encourages collaboration among state agencies that govern education and workforce issues and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Council's recommendations. Members of the committee are:

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon (Chair)  
Miguel del Valle, Chair of the Illinois P-20 Council  
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education  
Dr. Harry Berman, Interim Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Higher Education  
Geoff Obrzut, President and CEO of the Illinois Community College Board  
Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Adam Pollett, Acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Dr. Janet Holt, Director of the Illinois Education Research Council  
Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, President of the Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy  
Theresa Hawley, Illinois Early Learning Council  
Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office

### Contact:

Maria Capoccia  
Policy Director  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
[maria.capoccia@illinois.gov](mailto:maria.capoccia@illinois.gov)  
(312) 814-5375

Dr. Lynne Haeffele  
Education Policy Director  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
[lynne.haeffele@illinois.gov](mailto:lynne.haeffele@illinois.gov)  
(217) 558-3090

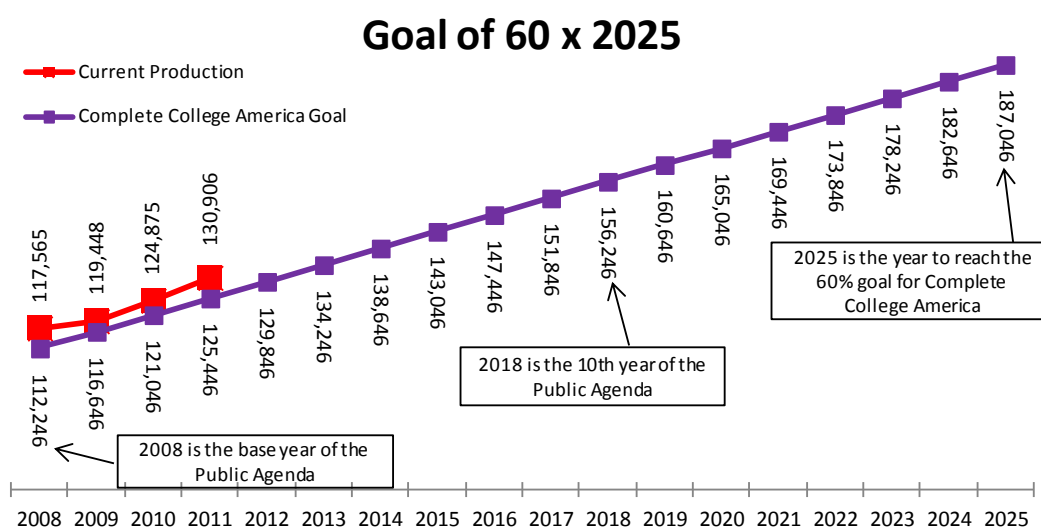
Crystal Saint  
Policy Analyst  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
[crystal.saint@illinois.gov](mailto:crystal.saint@illinois.gov)  
(217) 558-3090

## Where We Are Now

In the past few years, Illinois has positioned itself as a leader in educational reform and made significant strides toward bettering educational opportunities for its residents. This momentum can be attributed to the work of legislators, agencies, interest groups, and families working together to make change happen. Major achievements include the passage of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA; Public Act 96-0861), which requires principal and teacher evaluations to include student learning growth as a significant factor, and Senate Bill 7 (Public Act 97-0008), which is a bipartisan legislative package that built upon PERA. Senate Bill 7 made significant reforms to education administration in areas like the attainment of tenure, requirements for filling new and vacant positions, and the system of dismissal. In addition, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) adopted and began the implementation of the Common Core Standards, internationally benchmarked standards in reading and mathematics adopted by 45 states, which provide a clear and consistent framework for teachers to prepare students for college and the workforce. These efforts and others are helping to move education in Illinois forward.

However, there have also been setbacks—many stemming from the state’s financial problems. For example, in 2011, the General Assembly eliminated all FY2012 ISBE funding for mentoring teachers and educational leaders—programs that are important to improving teacher and leader quality. Budget cuts have also resulted in the elimination of the writing portion of the Prairie State Achievement Examination, which was the only writing test required by the State of Illinois. The state therefore has no way of measuring how students are progressing in this important area. Moreover, the state’s financial condition has led to the loss of early childhood programs and has put school districts in financial limbo due to the state’s inability to pay vendors and districts on time, which can affect students in the classroom.

Illinois must continue improving its public education system, from preschool to higher education. As a state, we have committed to the goal of increasing the proportion of working-age adults with college degrees or certificates to 60 percent by 2025. Making education accessible and success achievable is critical, not only to our economic progress, but also to the individual development of our citizens.



Source: IBHE and Complete College America, 2012.

Total number of undergraduate certificates (one-year and longer), associate’s degrees, and baccalaureate degrees awarded each year in Illinois compared to the annual number necessary to meet the Goal of 60 x 2025.

## Where We Want to Go: The P-20 Recommendations

In January 2011, the Illinois P-20 Council issued initial recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for developing a seamless statewide system of quality education and support to maximize students' educational attainment, opportunities for success in the workforce, and contributions to their local communities. Those recommendations were updated and reported upon in January 2012. If all recommendations are met and reforms accomplished, Illinois will be on track to educating students more efficiently and effectively.

The **2012 P-20 Recommendations** are as follows:

- **Transform the state education accountability system.**
  1. Align Illinois' student learning standards and assessments to reflect the knowledge and skills students will need for the 21st Century.
  2. Develop a system of assessment of student learning that provides reliable measures for accountability and guides to improve instruction and student learning.
  3. Develop an accountability system which will enable state and local education agencies, educators, parents, students, employers, researchers, and taxpayers to easily access and evaluate data about student learning, school climate, and financial expenditures in schools, districts, community colleges, and universities.
- **Provide a clear path to careers.**
  4. Develop, coordinate, and disseminate education and workforce data systems to improve career counseling and career preparation.
- **Develop and support effective teachers and leaders at all levels of the P-20 system.**
  5. Enlarge the pipeline of diverse, high-quality candidates into teacher and leadership positions throughout the entire educational system.
  6. Improve training and certification for teachers and educational leaders in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.
  7. Improve teacher evaluation and professional development for the entire education spectrum in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.
- **Engage families, youth, and communities throughout the state in increasing educational opportunities and maximizing educational attainment.**
  8. Improve educational attainment through attention to prevention, intervention, and reengagement.
  9. Increase public engagement across the entire spectrum of education.
- **Provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding and sound governance to promote high-quality, accessible educational opportunities throughout Illinois.**
  10. Develop a plan for Illinois education governance and finance that promotes high-quality, accessible educational opportunities.
  11. Track and report progress toward the goal.

This past year we made big strides toward many of these goals. However, several initiatives critical to the success of many of these recommendations are in jeopardy without more collaboration, support, and funding.

## Where We Are Going: Critical Success Factors & 2012 Achievements

Several initiatives currently in progress have major implications for the future of education in the state of Illinois and will greatly affect the outcomes of the P-20 recommendations. Four overarching critical success factors are listed below. Selected 2012 Achievements that mark progress toward these factors are listed for each.

### **Critical Success Factor 1: Predictable and equitable funding of Illinois public education.**

*(Recommendations 1-11)*

Funding has not been predictable for the past few years. We are funding schools at less than the General State Aid Foundation Level, which is intended to establish minimum spending on each pupil in Illinois' schools. The Foundation Level has been set at \$6,119 since FY2010, but the state has not funded GSA at that level since FY2011. During FY2012 and FY2013, GSA payments had to be prorated at 95% and 89% respectively, because insufficient funding was provided to meet the state's obligations. This has a major impact on districts, especially those who depend more on state aid to operate due to a small property tax base—typically poor urban and rural areas. These districts and students now experience cuts to teachers, programs, and enrichment initiatives. Similarly, state funding for higher education has been decreasing year after year, which has translated to rising tuition for students and less financial aid to help poor and middle-class students pay for college.

#### **2012 Achievement:**

- ✓ **ISBE full-funding budget request:** In 2012, ISBE developed, and in early 2013, submitted their FY 2014 budget requesting General State Aid be funded at the full Foundation Level. General Assembly action needed.

### **Critical Success Factor 2: Full implementation of curriculum and assessments under new standards—will require major infrastructure investments in broadband and technology.**

*(Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 11)*

In June 2010, ISBE adopted revised learning standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics based on the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards are internationally benchmarked and now adopted by 45 states, providing a clear and consistent framework for teachers to prepare students for college and the workforce. ISBE and its partners are working to train teachers on the changes and are collaborating to develop Common Core-aligned science standards.

New student assessments based on the Common Core are being developed through the multi-state Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium, to be ready for use by 2014-2015. The new assessments will be computer-based and will require significant investments in technology and broadband access for districts and the state. The new tests will occur with greater frequency and will provide results sooner than current state tests, allowing teachers to customize instruction for students based on results. Writing assessments will be incorporated into the PARCC exams.

The PARCC assessments will be used to implement new teacher evaluations established by the Performance Evaluation Reform Act, which requires principal and teacher evaluations to include student growth as a significant factor. Districts are implementing new performance evaluations for principals during the 2012–2013 school year. Implementation of new performance evaluations for teachers will be

phased in, with all districts using them by the 2016–2017 school year. Training on the new performance evaluations will be a major key to the success of the new evaluation process.

#### **2012 Achievements:**

- ✓ **ISBE technology budget request.** ISBE has requested \$250 million in capital funding to upgrade technology for instruction and assessments for FY 2014. The program will offer districts an opportunity to apply for matching funds to upgrade infrastructure readiness to use technology in the classroom and for the coming PARCC online assessments. General Assembly action needed.
- ✓ **ISAT cut score change.** In 2012, ISBE laid the groundwork for, and in 2013 raised the performance expectations for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The new expectations will lay the groundwork for the state to replace the ISAT with the PARCC assessments.
- ✓ **Common Core professional development.** Through ISBE and the Regional Offices of Education, large-scale professional development for teachers and administrators is taking place in anticipation of Common Core-based assessments, including 14,000 trained in 2012. Training will continue through the implementation.
- ✓ **Common Core awareness campaign.** Launched this year by a coalition of organizations.
- ✓ **PERA professional development.** During summer 2012, ISBE implemented major training programs to prepare those evaluating teachers and principals through PERA. Nearly 13,000 have been trained thus far.

#### **Critical Success Factor 3: Formation of the IL Longitudinal Data System (ILDS), which will track student progress from early childhood to careers.**

*(Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11)*

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the IL Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the IL Community College Board (ICCB), the IL Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Department of Employment Security (IDES), and the Department of Human Services (IDHS) have begun the initial development of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS). In the next decade, Illinois will engage in more data-driven decision-making in education and workforce policies and procedures. The ILDS will help track how well Illinois students transition through education levels and into the workforce, whether allocation of public resources is sufficient, whether academic, career and skill development programs are effective, and will track progress toward achieving state educational goals. The state has received \$20 million in federal grants to develop and implement the ILDS.

Major data decisions relating to data housing, governance, and common identifiers still need to be made. Postsecondary progress toward ILDS grant outcomes will require full interagency cooperation on broad governance issues, research agendas, and connections to workforce data. And, maintaining meaningful data warehouses will require investment by the state at the agency level.

#### **2012 Achievements:**

- ✓ **Initial data collection.** The first round of ILDS data collection began this academic year for some parts of the education system—K-12 and some early childhood programs, as well as public, independent, and proprietary postsecondary institutions through the Illinois Higher Education Consortium (IHEC).

- ✓ **Governance and data-sharing agreements.** Agreements have been drafted to establish agency procedures and protocols for data collections, storage, access and use..

**Critical Success Factor 4: Implementation and use of tools like the School Report Card, Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), and federal College Scorecard.**

*(Recommendations 3, 9, 10, 11)*

In 2011, sub-committees of the P-20 Council led an overhaul of the state-mandated School Report Card, which is published every fall for each of Illinois' more than 3,000 public schools. P.A. 097-0671 authorized the new annual K-12 Report Card, which will be published for the first time in October 2013. The new format will include more useful information for parents and the general public to know about public schools.

With the support of the Early Learning Council, ISBE is developing a Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), which will use a developmentally appropriate process for observing and evaluating students periodically throughout the kindergarten year to gauge the progress of their learning and skill acquisition. Information gleaned from KIDS will help to guide classroom instruction, teacher professional development, and resource allocation. KIDS was piloted in 2012 and will be instrumental in bringing more quality assurance to early learning programs.

The JELC is currently discussing the concept of promoting broad use of standardized higher education data, initially via a potential legislative proposal for developing "College Choice Reports," and now focusing on the newly-designed federal College Scorecard website, which provides standard data on public and private college and university costs, programs, and student completion rates. This information will help students and families determine their best options for postsecondary education.

All three tools together will lead to more informed decision making for families and policy making in the state.

**2012 Achievements:**

- ✓ **School Report Card change adopted.** In January 2012, Governor Quinn signed the bill authorizing the overhaul of the Report Card.
- ✓ **2012 Achievement: KIDS survey piloted.** In 2012, ISBE implemented KIDS at pilot schools beginning fall 2012. Nearly 5,000 kindergartners were part of the initial pilot.
- ✓ **Higher Education data discussion started.** The JELC began discussion of how to best promote use of standardized data by Illinois public colleges and universities.

## Other 2012 Achievements

### ✓ **Launch of “Illinois Pathways Initiative” and STEM Learning Exchanges**

The Illinois Pathways Initiative, which launched in February 2012, is a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education initiative funded through Race to the Top, designed to connect students with careers in STEM fields through a comprehensive website and support of STEM learning exchanges. Through the Illinois Pathways website ([www.illinoisworknet.com/ilpathways](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/ilpathways)) students, parents, and educators can access suggested courses, work-based learning opportunities, credentials, and assessments that lead to careers in fields of interest. They can also access statistics predicting statewide need for that career, median annual wages, education levels needed to work in the field, and much more.

STEM Learning Exchanges are being created by communities across the state through public-private partnerships that use mainly private resources to offer things like e-curriculum, lab space and equipment, connections to mentors and internships, and career guidance materials. Each Learning Exchange focuses on one of nine STEM application areas: 1) agriculture, food and natural resources, 2) architecture and construction, 3) energy, 4) finance, 5) health science, 6) information technology, 7) manufacturing, 8) research and development, and 9) transportation, distribution, and logistics. These Learning Exchanges bring a higher level of STEM education Illinois communities in need of these technical skills.

### ✓ **Re-launch of *College Illinois* Pre-paid Tuition Program**

In October 2012, ISAC re-launched the College Illinois pre-paid tuition program, allowing families to buy contracts to lock in tuition costs at public universities years before students go to college, making college more affordable for working-class families.

### ✓ **Second year of postsecondary performance funding**

The IBHE and ICCB began implementation of performance funding in 2012, which ties a small percentage of state higher education funding to student progress and degree completion in order to incentivize higher levels of achievement. A second year of performance funding has been submitted to the 2014 budget process. Achievement incentives will not be fully effective without a more significant budget commitment.

### ✓ **Illinois awarded a Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant**

In December, Illinois was awarded a \$34.8 million dollar Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. A key component of the grant is the development and implementation of a new Quality Rating and Improvement System that covers all early learning programs, including Preschool for All, Head Start, and child care centers and homes. This new system will help ensure that all children, and especially those with high needs, are receiving the quality early learning services that will prepare them for success in school and later life. The four-year grant also focuses on developing an integrated approach to professional development across early learning and development programs, and provides resources for integrating data across ISBE and IDHS to better inform early learning policy.